THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of Government o:: India.

(b)and (c) No expert team hss been deputed to carry out invesigations about the wells going dry during the last three years. However, central teams have been deputed to the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Praesh, Rajasthan and Bihar to assess the drought situation and the requirement of additional central assistance for meeting the situation.

'(d)' Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure a State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary decide all matters relating to management *al* relief operations including norms of assistance.

Monitoring of IRDP and NREP Prof-rammes

1787. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what agency Government have ap-pointed to verify and check the accuracy and varacity of report submitted by the State Governments and other agencies in regard to the IRDP and NREP programmes; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Gov-ernment to increase further employment opportunities in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOP MENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) In so far as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is con cerned, State Government reports are accept ed and no further verification is carried out in respect of these reports. However, the voluminous data available through Concur rent Evaluation of IRDP is analysed and used for comparison with the information furnished by the State Governments. As regards National Rural Employment Pro gramme (NREP), this programme has been discontinued w.e.f. 31st March, 1989 and a new programme called Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been launched after merging erstwhile programmes of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). In respect of N. R. E. P. programmes no separate agency had been appointed to check the accuracy and veracity of the report submitted by the State Governments.

(b) As regards increase in the employment opportunities, it is proposed to increase the coverage of beneficiaries under IRDP to increase self-employment opportunities during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period. Similarly, the JRY Plan outlay is likely to be substantially increased during the Eighth, Five Year Plan for creation of larger employment opportunities in the rural areas.

Progress made by the Projects for pro-motion of Advanced Research

178S. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of major projects are under progress at the Indo-Franch Centre for the promotion of Advanced Research;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the projects which have been successfully completed *to* far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNO-LOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA-MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

43 projects are currently being implemented! with the support of Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research.

(b) The projects are in the following 15 thrust areas in which IFCPAR supports collaborative activities between the two countries :

_ Pure and Applied Mathematics